



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Education Noticeboard

14 February 2025

A round-up of news, guidance and key updates for education settings

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Directors Update

Dear Colleagues,

Half term will be upon us and I am sure you are all looking forward to a break after a very busy few weeks. As always thank you for your continued support and hard work.



There is plenty of detail included in the noticeboard this week regarding holiday clubs and activities over the half term break. In particular look out for the new offers from Skyreach and the Bike hub, located in the Town Park! As always we have lots of useful 'what's hot across education in our local area too.

For your awareness, the international *stand up to bullying day* will take place on Friday 28 February, the week after the half term break. Let's use this as an opportunity to remind our school communities that any form of bullying is not tolerated and that processes are in place for pupils, parents and carers to raise any issues or concerns. We want our schools and settings to be a place where every pupil feels safe and has the opportunity to thrive.

I hope you all have a well-earned break next week and thanks to those, particularly in early years provision, who keep going!

Best wishes

Simon

Simon Wellman

Director: Education & Skills

NEWS



New strategy to drive ambitions for children and young people

A new strategy to ensure children and young people across Telford and Wrekin remain healthy, safe and can achieve their full potential will go to cabinet later this month.

On the back of last year's Ofsted success, which saw Telford & Wrekin Council retain its outstanding status, the local authority will present the new three-year Children and Young People's partnership strategy to members when they meet on Thursday 13 February.

Members will be asked to support the strategy, which will not only look to meet the outcomes of new Government policy and reform, but also bring together the organisations delivering services for children and young people across Telford and Wrekin. The proposals are based on what local children and young people, their parents and carers share about the outcomes they want for themselves.

By bringing organisations under the umbrella of one strategy, clear common aims have been proposed, which will ensure children and young people can start well, stay well, keep safe, enjoy and achieve.

The strategy takes a whole-child approach, to maximise the outcomes for all children and young people, with a focus on narrowing the gap for those who are marginalised or in need, for whatever reason.

A series of objectives for each aim have been developed. This includes but is not limited to supporting all children to be ready for school, improving children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing, encouraging

aspirations in all children and young people – enabling them to gain the skills they need to fulfil their potential and creating conditions, so every child is safe.

To embed the strategy in its first year, the council will deliver a number of priority programmes, including developing a new family help service, which will transform the existing early help support provided through family hubs. Its focus will be to help families get the support they need early to prevent situations escalating or reaching crisis mode.

Councillor Shirley Reynolds, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education, Employment and Skills, said:

“We’ve created the strategy on the back of our strong working relationships with key partners across the Borough.

“We all have the same drive, which is to continually improve the health and opportunities for all children and young people.

“Key to the strategy’s success is working together and ensuring children and young people as well as parents and carers are listened to and stay centred at the heart of everything we do.

“We have a great foundation to build on in our Borough with Children’s Services already rated as outstanding with Ofsted. However, we will not rest on our laurels as we look to continually improve and narrow the gap to provide equal opportunities for all.”

If endorsed by cabinet, the strategy will be steered and overseen by a newly established Children and Young People’s Board star chamber. This will have representation from young people, elected members, and leaders from statutory organisations.

Key partners working with the Council to deliver the strategy are the Police, NHS, and local voluntary and community organisations.

[Read More](#)

Local Authority Teams

Education & Skills

Children's safeguarding and Family Support

Our Service Strategies, detail how Children's Safeguarding and Family Support Services, along with Education & Skills, will contribute to the Council's ambitious four-year programme: "Protect, Care, and Invest to Create a Better Borough." The strategies highlight our recent achievements, defines our strategic aims for the future, and describes how we will measure our impact through key performance indicators (KPIs).

Our recent successes illustrate our commitment to delivering high-quality services that safeguard and support children and families, and enhance education and skills within our community. Building on these accomplishments, we aim to achieve a more inclusive, supportive, and thriving borough.

Each team's individual Business Plans will set out the specific actions they will take to meet our strategic aims and KPIs, ensuring a detailed and coordinated approach to achieving our goals.

[Education & Skills](#)

[Children's safeguarding and Family Support](#)

Safeguarding



Loudmouth - Subsidised Theatre In Education programme on safeguarding for Year 4 - 6!

There is still time to book your subsidised session of our theatre in education programme [Helping Hands](#) on staying safe in on and offline relationships, but hurry, the tour is booking up quickly!

This gentle safeguarding programme supports schools to keep children safe and help them know when relationships aren't safe and gaining the knowledge and confidence in getting help.

"Lots of possible scenarios are covered to support their emotional development and their ability to keep themselves safe."

- Teacher, Millbrook Primary School and Nursery

The programme is suitable for Years 4-6 and consists of a drama performance, character Q&A and discussion workshop. The cost to schools is just **£4 per pupil** and we can work with up to 2 consecutive year groups at a time.

We've been delivering this popular programme for many years now. It's had an enormous impact on thousands of young people across the UK, and our successful work with Telford and Wrekin Council now spans over 13 years.

Last academic year we worked with a total of 1,687 children across the tour in 25 schools.

- 100% of all students evaluated said they would recommend the programme to the next year's students and 100% of staff said they would recommend the programme for other schools and organisations.
- After the Helping Hands session 83% could correctly name all 5 parts of the NSPCC PANTS rule. This was an increase from 0% before the session.
- 100% of students stated that they felt that the Helping Hands session helps people to stay safe.

"The way in which the session was delivered (calm, animated and knowledgeable) will help staff think of how to deliver future discussions. Also listening to children's views/answers gave staff the opportunity to discover the misconceptions."

- Teacher, Captain Webb

[Read More](#)



Weston House, 42 Curtain Road, London, EC2A 3NH
020 7825 2500 | nspcc.org.uk

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

Registered charity England and Wales 216401, Jersey 384 and Scotland SC037717

NEW sextortion resource from Childline - professionals pack

Childline's brand-new national campaign that launched on Monday, 'Behind the Screen'. The Behind the Screen campaign **raises awareness of the sexually coerced extortion** of boys and young men, also called 'sextortion'.

What is 'Behind the Screen'?

- Childline want all young people, including boys and young men, to feel able to seek support for whatever they are going through and know that they can contact Childline for advice and support.
- They've produced a supporting guide for any professional working or volunteering with young people - it covers what sexually coerced extortion is, how to spot it and how to support young people.
- I've attached the professionals pack, along with a link to the NSPCC Learning webpage for any of you who'd like to find out more.
- More info on [Childline and IWF's Report Remove tool](#) is also included in this – would highly recommend familiarising yourself with this fantastic resource if not already.

Please do feel free to use and share with other professionals you feel would benefit

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/services/childline?modularPage=posters-and-campaigns>



[Flyer](#)

Free resources for schools in your authority area



Allergy School offers free, high-quality resources to help teach children aged 3-11 about food allergies.

Allergy School has been created in partnership with The King's Foundation, St John Ambulance, the children's charity Coram Life Education, High Speed Training and Tesco Stronger Starts.

We want every food allergic child to feel safe, empowered and included in school, but we can only achieve this if every school has access to the right resources.

Together, we can make an incredible difference and help ensure all nurseries, primary schools, and out-of-school clubs and groups are enjoyable, safe and inclusive places for all children to learn.

Through a new, free toolkit of engaging resources, Natasha's Foundation wants to transform understanding of food allergies so that children, teachers and club leaders feel more confident around food allergies. We have created the first wave of resources specifically for nurseries, primary schools and out-of-school clubs and groups looking after children aged 3 to 11.

These are brought to life by Arlo, the friendly food-allergic armadillo puppet, who makes learning about food allergies fun and engaging.

And the great thing is that all the resources are **completely** free.

[Read More](#)

STEP



Get Into Teaching Recruitment Events with Step

Shropshire and Telford Education Partnership are holding a 'Get into Teaching' Recruitment event covering Early Years, Primary and Secondary phases.

These recruitment events will provide you with all the information you need to help you decide if teaching is the career for you. The Initial Teacher Training experts for the four STEP providers will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Event 1:

3rd March 2025 @ 4pm – 7pm

This is an online event – see flyer for the email address to book your place.

Event 2:

10th March @ 4pm-7pm

This is an online event – see flyer for the email address to book your place.

Severn Training and Schools Alliance - email: stsa@taw.org.uk

Shropshire Primary Partnership - email: admin@spp.empowermat.co.uk

Salop Teaching Partnership - email: heather.brown@pri.318education.co.uk

Alliance of Leading Learning - email: claire.jones@leadinglearning.co.uk

Testimonial

“STEP provide excellent support and training across the four main areas of driving school improvement”

Training



Public Health funded drug and alcohol training for all Telford and Wrekin schools. Training provided by Aquarius

We are delighted to let you know that Public Health have agreed to fund alcohol and drug awareness workshops in the spring and summer term. The content will support staff knowledge and understanding of the Health Education statutory curriculum.

Public Health are offering one place for every school. This training is appropriate for all phases and context of schools.

The workshops will cover the following:

- Exploring attitudes and perceptions of substance misuse - a focus on hidden harm and parental substance misuse
- Developing knowledge of commonly used substances - spotting the signs (giving added focus to vaping)
- Being aware of risk and protective factors
- Building key skills in navigating the conversation with a young person and parents/carers
- Knowing signposting options and how to make a referral
- Action planning strategies to take back to relevant settings (policy review, CPD for staff, parental workshops, website updates, assemblies)
- Q&A

When are the sessions?

You will be required to attend two workshops. Day 1 is a full day. Day 2 is half a day.

For staff in early years and primary, there are two options to choose from:

Attendance option 1

Day 1

Friday 28th Feb (1000-1600)

Day 2 (half-day)

Friday 13th June (1300-1600)

Attendance option 2**Day 1**

Wednesday 12th March (1000-1600)

Day 2 (half-day)

Wednesday 18th June (0930-1230)

For staff in secondary and colleges

Day 1

Friday 14th March (1000-1600)

Day 2 (half-day)

Friday 13th June (0930-1230)

**All training will be face to face and held at Brookside Central, Bembridge,
Brookside, Telford TF3 1LP**

To book your FREE place, please contact Sue.Stoddart2@taw.org.uk



Flyer

Awareness dates



National Apprenticeship Week – engineering apprentices

Two videos featuring Telford & Wrekin Council engineering apprentices –
Lucinda Lycett and Victoria Burton

During National Apprenticeship Week, we spoke to two of our Civil Engineering Apprentices who work for Telford & Wrekin Council's engineering team and are going from strength-to-strength on their programme.

These are the You Tube links to the videos:

[Victoria Burton](#)

[Lucinda Lycett](#)

National Apprenticeship Week



Meet Liam!

As we celebrate National Apprenticeship Week across Telford and Wrekin, we wanted to share Liam's story with you.

Liam is a care leaver and joined Telford & Wrekin Council in December to start a two-year apprenticeship in xxx.

Liam is now the Council's young people's voice apprentice and will focus his time on improving the way the council communicates with young people and how he can encourage them to participate in key projects.

Now three months into his apprenticeship, Liam gives us an insight into his experience so far:

"I'm loving my apprenticeship at the council. In the year before I started, I didn't know what direction I wanted my career to take.

"My personal advisor suggested I apply to be an apprentice with the council, and it was definitely the right move for me.

"I have a passion for business and want to work, and the apprenticeship gives me the opportunity to earn and learn.

"It's helped me focus on what's important in my life and will help me decide what I want to do next, giving me great a great foundation to build on."

As a care leaver apprentice, Liam is entitled to apply for a government bursary, which will provide a one-off financial payment.

If you are a care leaver taking on an apprenticeship speak to your employer or training provider and find out more about the financial support available - [Apprenticeships care leavers' bursary guidance - GOV.UK](#)



Student Volunteering Week 2025

Student Volunteering Week is a national week, led by the Student Volunteering Network, that takes place across the UK. Universities and schools across the country step up to take part in the week, organising opportunities or events to encourage their students to volunteer and help their local communities.

Student Volunteering Week 2025: Themes

We've added some themes based on feedback for each day of Student Volunteering Week, as we often see a range of different ways Student Volunteering Week is recognised across institutions.

You may want to host activities based around these themes each day, but the network is committed to support all SVW related activity, so we'll still be re-sharing and promoting all activity from institutions across the week.

Monday 10th – Micro-Monday

Micro-volunteering opportunities are a great way to give a small amount of their time and make a difference. Could you host a micro-volunteering event on your university

campus or share online
some micro-volunteering opportunities with students.

Tuesday 11th – Transferable Skills Tuesday

We're all aware of the many benefits of student volunteering, so we're encouraging you to showcase the employability benefits of getting involved in volunteering.

Wednesday 12th – Wellness Wednesday

You might want to showcase or spotlight a wellbeing related opportunity students can get involved in, advertise a mental health charity or work on a campaign to spread the message that volunteering is good for mental and physical health.

Thursday 13th – Thankful Thursday

Thank and recognise your volunteers today and celebrate the amazing work of student volunteers.

Friday 14th – Community Friday

Community here might be recognising and celebrating student volunteer work in the community, or encouraging students to get involved in community volunteering opportunities. Or you might want to showcase the volunteer work students do on the University campus, supporting their student community (e.g. academic reps or society leaders).

Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th – Sustainable Saturday and Sunday

Encourage students to get involved in a green opportunity, whether it's planting, gardening, tree planting, litter picking or a beach clean – anything on the sustainability agenda is welcomed.

Our national team, led by the Student Volunteering Network, will be available to offer help to you in running your SVW activities, before, during and after the week.

Outdoor Education

Outdoor Education Advisory Service – eVisit Version 2

The existing e-Visits software will be upgraded on Monday 17th February 2025.

Hopefully you will already have heard through the network meetings and Head's briefings that over February half term the current eVisit system will be upgraded to EV2.

This is something we have been trying to do for a long time to gain access to the improved format as well as the more advanced management system.

This does mean that EV1 will become locked, all the existing information will remain and as "Read Only".

We have encouraged users to finalise as many visits as they can at this stage otherwise the EV1 draft trips will have to be copied and pasted into the new EV2 system as a new visit.

We will be allowing more time in the weeks following half term to support you and we will run extra Guidance Workshops on.

February 25th, 27th

March 4th, 6th

Please email: edvisits@telford.gov.uk to get the Teams invite.

Some of the new features are:

- User friendly format
- Easier to manage and monitor progress of visits.
- Pupil data can be uploaded by either using Wonde Integration (£99 annual cost) or by manual import (free but at school level).
- Parental consent feature is embedded within to directly request, chase and monitor upcoming trips.
- The cost of the visit can now be recorded on the trip – this is optional and does not require input if decided at school level.
- Trips can be printed which includes group list, additional needs, dietary requirements
- Training Hub including video tutorials and walk through guides.
- Extensive report feature.

On Approved Trips

- Additional notes/information are easily added without having to “unlock” the visit.
- Actual Attendance can be recorded.
- Valuation feature where the “outcomes” from the visit form are pulled through.
- **Preparation for the change.**
 - Visit data from version 1 will be “read only”. Draft visits will have to be re-inputted onto version 2. We therefore recommend that all draft visits are finalised before 15th
 - All staff profiles will be transferred over. We recommend that you check that all staff listed on your establishment are current. Ensure that all leavers are made “inactive”.

After migration

- A login link will be sent to each EVC – EVC to then send to all school e-Visit users.
- Dedicated time is allocated to support EVC / Visit Leaders via TEAMS (25th, 27th February 4th, 6th March 2pm – 4pm via TEAMS)
- Please note we are a small team of 2 – in the initial days please email any queries to edvisits@telford.gov.uk.

CPD

CPD courses to the end of the Spring Term 2025

Further details of these and all other courses are available in the 2024-25 CPD booklet on the [Telford Education Services](#) website and on the [Ollie](#) website.

The CPD Booklet to the end of the 2024-25 academic year can be viewed via [Telford Education Services](#)

As always, courses can be booked by completing and returning a CPD booking form to cpdschoolimprovement@telford.gov.uk (unless denoted differently).

We look forward to seeing you after the half term break – best wishes.

[Read More](#)

Other Information and Resources



February half term activity programme

Activities across Telford & Wrekin Council's leisure sites start from £2 for residents running throughout half term from Monday 17 February to Sunday 23

February.

Take a look at the brochure here and book online <https://bit.ly/3S45ScC>

[Book online here](#)

Urban Games - February Half Term 2025

Aged between 8-16 outgrown your usual sport?

or just looking for something new a way to get active and fun?



[Book online here](#)



Learn to Ride this February Half Term with Telford Bike Hub

Telford Bike Hub would like to get as many children and young people cycling as possible. As part of our mission we are offering Learn to Ride sessions this February half term, with bike and helmet hire included in the price.

[Read More](#)



Crucial Crew 2025 'SAVE THE DATE'

Planning has started for Crucial Crew 2025. It will be held between 23 June 2025 and 11 July 2025.

Crucial Crew is back for the 30th year!

Crucial Crew is a multi-agency partnership event aimed at Year 6 students designed to provide them with life skills and knowledge that will help to keep themselves and others safe, both now and in the future.

Crucial Crew aim to raise students awareness of important safety issues, encouraging them to think about their own and others safety and guiding them on what to do in a number of potentially unsafe situations.

This year the event is taking place between 23 June 2025 and 11 July 2025, so 'SAVE THE DATE'.

Booking forms will follow shortly.



The High Sheriff's Outstanding Young Citizen Awards - Nominations

This is a reminder to submit your nominations for the upcoming High Sheriff's Outstanding Young Citizen Awards, hosted by Telford College on the 10th March 2025. The deadline to submit nominations is Friday 14th February 2025.

The High Sheriff's Outstanding Young Citizen Awards are being organised on behalf of The High Sheriff by Telford College for 2025.

The awards are a great way to **showcase and celebrate the many endeavours carried out by young people in our communities**. By participating in activities within school and the wider community, young people gain the experience to develop the skills to cope with life and the challenges which it brings.

These awards recognise **young people aged 18 years and under, who live in Shropshire or the borough of Telford & Wrekin and have demonstrated commitment to citizenship through various activities** either as an individual or as part of a group. Parents, guardians, group leaders and teachers will join nominees on the awards evening to receive a personalised certificate which will be presented by myself. There will then be overall winners for the education authorities of both Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin who will be presented with a shield to keep at their school/college for the year.

Outstanding Young Citizens come in many guises and below are a few examples of previous nominee's work. It is not an exhaustive list and nominations will of course be accepted for other activities:

- fund-raising and charity events
- peer monitoring or youth work
- volunteering
- community radio and newsletters
- conservation volunteer activities
- recycling and debates on environment issues

- projects to improve the school or local neighbourhood
- caring on a regular basis
- interpreting English
- managing family finances
- enterprise projects and work experience
- serving on school or youth council
- writing to an MP or newspaper
- mock parliaments or elections and campaigns or debates about political issues
- international exchanges
- activities to do with consumer or legal issues

There are 4 award categories:

1. Voluntary work and community activities
2. Environmental activities
3. Family activities
4. Political activities

All schools, colleges, youth groups and related organisations throughout Shropshire and the borough of Telford & Wrekin are invited to **nominate their young people** whose permanent residence is in the county and who go above and beyond for their community, charity, family or friends.

Nominations should be submitted online using the online link and will **close on Friday 14th February 2025**.

Please submit nominations via: [High Sheriff Award – Telford College](#)

The awards night will be held on **Monday 10th March 2025**, at Telford College.

[Read More](#)



New Government Legislation – Simpler Recycling

To drive up recycling rates across England, Central Government have introduced a number of resource and waste reforms. On Thursday 9 May 2024, Central Government confirmed the Simpler Recycling reforms. This will require the collection of recycled materials to include plastic, cans glass, foil, a separate collection of paper and card, and also food waste from not only all households but also from other premises, such as businesses, hospitals and schools from 1 April 2025.

Schools have control over which waste management provider they use. However, Telford & Wrekin Council can offer schools recycling collection services to buy into if they wish. At Telford & Wrekin the services are delivered by Veolia through the Council's Household Waste Management contract. The service, which Telford & Wrekin Council can offer, is at a cost pass through so the service charge is kept as low as possible and is only to cover the cost impact to the Council.

We offer a range of container sizes for cans, glass and plastic to be recycled and also paper and card. We can offer wheelie bins to recycle food waste and can supply bags and indoor caddies to be used inside (and then decanted into containers for emptying).

[Flyer](#)



Tots Talking

As part of the ***Talking with your Little One*** project currently running in Telford, we offer regular “Tots Talking” courses for parents. This is a course which aims to improve parent-child communication and ultimately raise language achievement for 2-year-olds.

We would like to work in partnership with you because you routinely complete development checks with children, and as part of this, you complete a two-year-check. Once you have completed the two-year-check, we are hoping that a Tots Talking course will become one of your possible actions – i.e. where a child does not achieve “expected level” in their two-year-check, we would ask you to refer parents to the “Tots Talking” course, so that they can learn a few hints and tips about how they can make a difference as parents, and how talk can really benefit their toddler.

The course does not replace a referral to specialist services, so please do continue with any necessary referrals. But the course may offer some reassurance to parents, and it may add to parents’ knowledge and improve parent-child’s interactions.

Attached is a criterion for referral, and also a poster for the next Tots Talking course in February, although these will run on a regular basis, so you can refer parents in at any time.

If you have any children who meet the criteria, please refer them to the course by sending a brief note indicating:

- Referral to Tots Talking
- Child initials

- Parent Name
- Parent email
- Parent telephone number to :

Telfordfamilyhubs@telford.gov.uk and we will contact them and offer them a place.

As these are sensitive details, please send from a secure network and ensure you have parental permission to share details.

[Flyer](#)

[Referral criteria](#)



Shropshire Athletic Association Under 11's Year 5 and Year 6 Cross Country Championships 2025

Saturday 22nd March 2025

Year 5 and Year 6 route information together with the entry form - please note that entry forms have to be submitted no later than Wednesday 19 March 2025.

[Read More Y6](#)

[Read more Y5](#)

[Shropshire U11 Entry form](#)

